

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

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EUR/SOV - MR. WILKINSON

INR/DFR/RGE - MR. MCINTYRE

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R 030015Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 152752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, US

SUBJ: LOS - STRAITS

REF: GENEVA 3756

FOR STEVENSON

1. U.S. DELEGATION MAY PROCEED ON BASIS OF ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAS 13 AND 14 OF REFTL.

2. THERE IS A QUESTION IN OUR MIND WHETHER SOVIET
PROPOSAL AS DRAFTED APPLIES TO STRAIT OF TIRAN,
SINCE THIS STRAIT LEADS TO TERRITORIAL SEAS OF
SEVERAL STATES. ACCORDINGLY, THIS AMBIGUITY SHOULD

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BE CLARIFIED.

3. THE DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS OF SIX-MILE STRAIT EXCEPTION INDICATES THAT THEY BELIEVED THIS EXCEPTION ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF AEGEAN. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SIX MILE EXCEPTION DOES NOT CLOSE MAJOR PASSAGES IN AEGEAN AND SOVIETS SHOULD ACCORDINGLY NOT BE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED. FURTHER DISCUSSION WOULD SEEM WARRANTED.

4. WHILE ITALIAN ARTICLE IS A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. INTERESTS, U.S. DEL SHOULD NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORT IT AT THIS TIME. U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE CLEAR PRIVATELY TO ITALIANS THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THIS EFFORT WHICH ATTEMPTS TO ACCOMMODATE INTERESTS AND MAY PUBLICLY POINT TO IT AS CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT. IN ADDITION, U.S. DEL SHOULD INQUIRE OF ITALIANS WHETHER THEY HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH OTHER NATO MEMBERS. IT WOULD NOT SEEM TO MEET DANISH OR GREEK CONCERNS. NEVERTHELESS, EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNIFIED NATO SUPPORT SHOULD BE PURSUED AND WE WILL BE PREPARED TO STUDY ADVISABILITY OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A FORMULATION THAT WOULD OBTAIN NATO SUPPORT.
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